

ENGLISH

Full Marks – 100

Time – Three hours

The figures in the margin indicate full marks for the questions.

1. (a) Write an essay in about 400 words on any *one* of the following topics : $1 \times 25 = 25$

(i) Value of reading

(ii) Festivals of Tripura.

Or

- (b) Write a report on any *one* of the following topics :

(i) The city bus service launched in Agartala.

(ii) The flood situation of this monsoon in Tripura.

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Or

(c) Write in about 400 words a letter to any one of the following persons on the subject specified against each :

(i) To your friend about the evils of dowry system.

(ii) To the Editor of a local daily complaining against the use of plastic bags.

2. Make a précis of the following passage and add a suitable title. 16+4=20

A great part of Arabia is desert. Here there is nothing but sand and rock. The sand is so hot that you cannot walk over it with your bare feet in the daytime. Here and there in the desert are springs of water that come from deep down under the ground, so deep that the sun cannot dry them up. These springs are few and far apart, but wherever there is one, green grass very soon covers the ground all around it. Soon fig trees and palm trees grow tall and graceful, making a cool, green, shady place around the spring. Such a place is called an oasis. The Arabs who are not in the cities live in the desert all the year round. They live in tents that can move from one oasis to another, seeking grass and water for their sheep, goats, camels and horses. These desert Arabs eat ripe, sweet figs and also dates that grow upon the palm trees.

These Arabs have the finest horses in the world. An Arab is very proud of his riding horse, and loves him almost as much as he loves his wife and children. He never puts heavy loads upon his horse, and often lets him stay in the tent with his family. The camel, on the other hand, is much more useful to the Arab. One camel can carry as much as or more than two horses. The Arab loads the camel with goods, and rides him too, for miles across the desert just as if he were really the 'Ship of the Desert', which he is often called.

Or

Give a summary of the following passage.

It is every man's experience that morning hours in each house are the most busy hours, when everyone is in a great hurry. Even a fraction of a second is important. Even the laziest creature is stirred to act and he moves with the hands of the clock. Everyone has some urgency – father is seen getting ready for the office and so it becomes absolutely essential for the mother to be awfully busy in the kitchen. The children, who usually get up late, rush to get entry to the bathroom and there begins a clash and very often either the fittest survives or the laziest withdraws. The children keep on shouting right from the living room enquiring about their shirts or trousers which hang right in front of their solemn eyes in the wardrobes. Elders lose temper and

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(3)

youngsters try others' patience. The mother is sandwiched between the kitchen affairs and the morning requirements of the children and even their father. She is often heard cursing herself for being the mother of so irresponsible children and the wife of a lazy husband who keeps shouting like children for his shaving razor or the towel. The horn of the school bus alarms everyone and then once again starts a round of accusations, arguments and counter-arguments and the children are seen running hurly-burly. With their despatch the state of normalcy is restored but the poor mother is left with enormous work to do – clothes to be washed, rooms to be cleaned and arranged because each object is removed from its place.

3. (a) Correct the errors, if any, in any *five* of the following sentences : $2 \times 5 = 10$
- (i) They are always complaining for something.
 - (ii) I'm afraid that I can't attend your party.
 - (iii) They spent the whole night fighting against the fire.
 - (iv) He kept telling the same joke again and again.

(v) I won't be able to attend at the meeting.

(vi) I don't mind waiting a bit longer.

(vii) She made me so annoyed I felt like shouting to her.

(viii) I've been playing piano since I was eight.

(b) Fill in the blanks with appropriate pre-positions. $1 \times 5 = 5$

(i) The cat jumped the chair.

(ii) Which of these chairs did you sit ?

(iii) I have not slept yesterday.

(iv) I shall stay here Sunday.

(v) Ram lives in an apartment ours.

4. Punctuate the following passage.

10

the post master was beginning to lose his temper
have you no sense he cried get away do you think
we are going to eat your letter when it comes
ali walked out very slowly turning after every few
steps to gaze at the post office his eyes were filled
with tears of helplessness his patience was
exhausted even though he still had faith

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5. Make sentences with any *five* of the following idioms and phrases. $2 \times 5 = 10$

down with, well off, carry on, cut down, to fall back, a stone's throw, keep in, by leaps and bounds, safe and sound, crocodile tears.

6. Translate the following Bengali passage into English : $10 \times 2 = 20$

- (a) বায়ু না পাইলে মানুষ কিংবা অন্য কোনও জীবই বাঁচিতে পারিত না। খাদ্য ও পানীয় না পাইলে আমরা কয়েকদিন বাঁচিতে পারি, কিন্তু বায়ু না পাইলে আমরা কয়েক মিনিটও বাঁচিতে পারি না। বায়ু না থাকিলে বৃক্ষলতাদি জন্মিতে এবং বাড়িতে পারিত না। জলের ভিতর বায়ু আছে বলিয়াই মৎস্য প্রভৃতি জলজন্তু সকল বাঁচিয়া আছে। বায়ু বেগে বহিলে প্রদীপ নিবিয়া যায়। ইহা দেখিয়া মনে হয় যে বাতাস আগুনের শত্রু।
- (b) সেকালে মগধে একটি প্রসিদ্ধ বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় ছিল। তাহার নাম নালন্দা। পাটনা হইতে কয়েক ক্রোশ দূরে তাহার স্থান বাহির হইয়াছে। মাটির তলে তাহার অনেক চিহ্ন পাওয়া গিয়াছে। এই নালন্দা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ে বৌদ্ধ ধর্মশাস্ত্র পড়ানো হইত। এখানে অনেক অধ্যাপক ছিলেন। নালন্দায় দেশবিদেশ হইতে দলে দলে ছাত্র আসিয়া বৌদ্ধশাস্ত্র অধ্যয়ন করিত। এমন কি চীন প্রভৃতি দেশ হইতেও ছাত্র আসার কথা জানা যায়।